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INTERROGATION REPORT

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COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)
Laos

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SUBJECT : Food Supply of a NVA Unit During
Infiltration

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SUMMARY

3.3(h)(2)

The effect of Allied bombings in NVN could be seen in the destruction of rice storage stations, which caused food shortages along the infiltration route in NVN. No other rice supply was available at the destroyed stations. Troops lost a five-day rice ration. Rice rations were maintained while travelling in Laos. Upon arrival at BA Mountain, PHU CAT District, BINH DINH Province, the rice ration was cut and the problem of rice supply was increased by Allied air and ground actions along Company 61's rice transport supply route. As food shortages became commonplace, the incidence of dysentery and beriberi increased.

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1. Prior to the departure of Infiltration Group 338, each man was issued food at NGOC LIEN Village, NGOC LAC District, THANH HOA Province, NVN. Every member of the 500-man group was given a one-kilogram tin can of salted pork (NVN origin) (which was to be a three-month supply) and 10 milk cans of rice (a five-day supply). No other meat or food was issued.
2. As the group moved on its infiltration route in NVN, the 10-can rice supply was replenished every five days at stations along the way. Two men were assigned from each squad to obtain rice at the station, which was usually manned by two personnel. Rice was carried from the station in seven kilogram bags. Each man carried one bag. The rice was later distributed to the unit members by the duty attendant. While in NVN, troops continued to receive a 10-can ration.
3. In the event a way station was destroyed, no rice was obtained. No other rice supply was available. While on the route in NVN, several (number unknown) rice storage way stations had been hit by air attacks and destroyed. As the result, troops conserved their five-day rice ration so that they would have a reserve left, in case the next way station was destroyed. Since no other rice would be issued, this reserve was used as a stop-gap measure until they reached the next rice storage way station, which was located five days away. The only other supplemental food supply was obtained by foraging abandoned reclaimed land for potatoes and manioc. Two men from each squad were assigned this duty.
4. Upon arrival in QUANG BINH Province, food supply for the troops was already insufficient; however, no cases of sicknesses were reported. Entering and travelling through Laos, the 10-can rice ration was obtained at regular 5-day intervals. None of the rice storage way stations had been damaged or destroyed.
5. After arriving in SVN, rice shortages became commonplace, especially from early November to December 1967 at their final destination point in the BA Mountain area in PHU CAT District, BINH DINH Province, SVN. The ration was decreased to eight milk cans. Rice resupply missions were dispatched every five days. Each seven-man squad assigned at least two men for the trip. Each platoon was responsible for assigning its own personnel, or about three to 10 men. Personnel from Company 61 (total strength: 70) assembled together before departure. Mission groups departed at 1600 hours and returned at 0500 hours the following morning.
6. The mission group obtained rice from the local plains people. 3.3(h)(2)

Healthy members of the group carried ten kilograms of rice in bags, while sickly personnel carried about five kilograms. The trip into the plains area was described as difficult. Mission groups were subject to attacks from both the air and on the ground. On one such trip, the group was attacked by helicopters and ground troops, which resulted in one man killed and two lightly wounded. Two personnel were assigned to carry each casualty back to the base area in BA Mountain, while the others continued on their mission.
7. The other food supplements were salt and salted shrimp, which was also obtained from the local plains area people. Each man was issued one kilogram of salt a month. During a one month stay at the BA Mountain area, salted shrimp was received twice. 3.3(h)(2)

At no time did unit

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members receive any fresh vegetables, meat, fish, or other foods in SVN, Laos, or since departing NVN.

8. As the result, both dysentery and beriberi became common diseases which struck almost every unit member at one time or another since they arrived in SVN.

3.3(h)(2)

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